

HISTORY  
OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTMASTERS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
UTAH CHAPTER  
.. 1969

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*Post offices Bancroft*  
*History of Utah by Hubert Howe Bancroft*

This amount does not of course include the income from tithes, which in 1880 was estimated at \$458,000,<sup>43</sup> a sum not larger in proportion to population than is expended for religious and charitable purposes in other states and territories of the union.

The receipts of the United States internal revenue from Utah were for 1883 about \$48,000, and for the twenty preceding years averaged about \$40,000. Neither tobacco nor spirituous liquors were manufactured in the country, though 230,000 cigars and some 18,000 barrels of malt liquors made during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1883, yielded revenue to the amount of \$18,097. Apart from these items, most of the internal revenue receipts were derived from license taxes.<sup>44</sup>

The United States land-office at Salt Lake City was opened in the year 1869. Up to the 31st of March, 1884, the total payments made through this office were \$831,209.08, this amount representing almost the entire sum paid for lands disposed of by government. During this period 6,388 homestead entries were made, covering an area of 844,159 acres, and 2,773 final proofs. The number of mineral-land entries was 1,023, and their area 8,656 acres; of coal-land entries 72, with an area of 10,423 acres.<sup>45</sup>

of Gov., 1870, 9-15. For miscellaneous matters relating to taxation and revenue, see *Utah Jour. Legist.*, 1860-1, 76-7, 83-8; 1870, 111-13; 1876, 254-6; *Utah Acts*, 1859-60, 33; 1872, 2; 1878, 11-12; *Deseret News*, Feb. 1, 1855, Feb. 13, 1856, Dec. 21, 1865; *Utah Directory*, 1869, 67; *S. L. C. Directory*, 1869, 67.

<sup>43</sup> *Utah Hand-Book of Mormonism*, 6, 40, where it is stated that the total income of the priesthood exceeded \$1,000,000.

<sup>44</sup> *Utah Gazetteer*, 1884, 117. For other matters relating to internal revenue, see *Rev. Rept. Com.*, 1863, 1864, passim; *Deseret News*, March 8, 1871. In 1862 a memorial was presented for a remission of direct federal taxation, for which see *Utah Acts Legist.*, 1861-2, 59-60. In 1878 a memorial was presented to congress asking that a mint be established in S. L. City. *H. Misc. Doc.*, 45th Cong. 2d Sess., 54, 97. In 1868 the Mormons again issued a currency of their own. *S. F. Call*, Nov. 29, 1868; *Gold Hill News*, Nov. 14, 1868; *S. F. Bulletin*, April 12, 1872.

<sup>45</sup> *Utah Gazetteer*, 1884, 117. For list of Utah land-offices in 1882, see *H. Ex. Doc.*, 47th Cong. 2d Sess., x, 42. For patents issued to gentile as against Mormon applicants, see *Sen. Doc.*, 46th Cong. 2d Sess., v, no. 181. The total number of acres disposed of in each year will be found in *H. Ex.*

The receipts of the post-office at Salt Lake City for the year ending March 31, 1884, amounted to \$39,294, and the expenses to \$12,871, leaving a surplus in this department of \$26,423. The first post-office was established in March 1849, letters being usually delivered before that date at the conclusion of divine service on the sabbath at the several places of worship. Of mail contracts and services up to the close of 1856 mention has already been made.<sup>46</sup> At that date, it will be remembered, there was a monthly service, when not interrupted by severity of weather or unforeseen casualties, connecting eastward with Independence and westward with Sacramento. After the reopening of postal communication, interrupted by the Utah war, there was little regard to regularity or promptness in the delivery of the mails, letters and papers being often lost, mail-bags wetted, thrown carelessly to the ground, and sometimes purposely de-

*Doc.*, 47th Cong. 2d Sess., xix., no. 72, 146. For town sites patented in 1878-80, see *H. Ex. Doc.*, 47th Cong. 1st Sess., ix., pt 5, 187. For surveys and statistics between 1869 and 1880, see *U. S. Land-Off. Rept.*, 1869, 168-74, 225-42, 256-62, 326-31, 400-5; *Sec. Interior Repts.*, 42d Cong. 2d Sess., pt i., 42, 219-23; 42d Cong. 3d Sess., pt i., 12-13, 18; 43d Cong. 1st Sess., i, 149-57, 257-93; 43d Cong. 2d Sess., i, 155-68, 268-84, 300-3; 44th Cong. 1st Sess., 37-40, 248-60, 377-424; 44th Cong. 2d Sess., 32-3, 36-39, 130-52, 166-85, 277-93; *H. Ex. Doc.*, 45th Cong. 2d Sess., viii, 69, 155-217, 299-311; 45th Cong. 3d Sess., p. x., x.-xvi., 18-19, 55, 86-7, 95-6, 161, 213, 215, 319-33; *Id.*, 46th Cong. 2d Sess., v, 2206-8, 2213-15; *Sen. Doc.*, 46th Cong. 3d Sess., no. 12, 50, 67. For portions of surveyor-general's reports touching Utah, see *H. Ex. Doc.*, 46th Cong. 2d Sess., ix, 871-897; 47th Cong. 1st Sess., ix., pt 5, 141, 882-915; 47th Cong. 2d Sess., x, 75-7. For legislation of congress upon which title to land in Utah depends, see *Id.*, 47th Cong. 2d Sess., xviii., no. 45, 971-8. For laws relating to preëmption, homestead, timber-land, desert, and other lands, see *U. S. Stat.*, 44th Cong. 2d Sess., 377; 45 Cong. 2d Sess., 88-9; *Stayner, Farmers' and Miners' Manual*. For further discussions, measures, proceedings, and appropriations of congress for Utah, see *Cong. Globe*, 1868-9, 687, 754, 781; 1869-70, passim; 1872-3, cclv., iii.-ix., ccxc., 221, 353; 1873-4, 21, 51, 84-5, 187, 204, 506, 1838; *U. S. Acts*, 40th Cong. 3d Sess., 224; 42d Cong. 2d Sess., 40, 223, 363, 530; *House Jour.*, 40th Cong. 3d Sess., 617; 41st Cong. 1st Sess., 317; 41st Cong. 3d Sess., 624-5, 650-1; 42d Cong. 2d Sess., 657, 699, 701, 713, 725, 1219, 1290, 1302-5, 1345-7; 43d Cong. 1st Sess., 1545, 1559, 1582-3; 43d Cong. 2d Sess., 793, 800, 810, 812; 44th Cong. 1st Sess., 1736, 1775; 45th Cong. 1st Sess., 408, 431; 45th Cong. 2d Sess., 1654-5, 1708; *Sen. Jour.*, 41st Cong. 2d Sess., 1490, 1527-8; 41st Cong. 3d Sess., 603, 673; 42d Cong. 1st Sess., 239, 249, 266, 277, 279; 42 Cong. 2d Sess., 1234, 1380-2, 1419-20; 42d Cong. 3d Sess., 856, 870, 886; 43d Cong. 1st Sess., 1121, 1141-2; 45th Cong. 1st Sess., 168; 45th Cong. 2d Sess., 977-8, 990, 1021; *H. Comm. Rept.*, 45th Cong. 2d Sess., iv., no. 708, v., no. 949.

<sup>46</sup> See pp. 500-502, this vol.



stroyed. As for magazines and newspapers, the saints considered themselves fortunate if they received them four months after date. The establishment of the pony express in 1860, and the persistence with which the Mormons advertised their grievances, improved matters considerably; and with the building of railroads, lines of postal route were of course established throughout the territory. In 1879 there were 109 routes, the subsidies for which amounted to nearly \$200,000,<sup>47</sup> and about 200 postmasters, whose compensation varied from 18 cents to \$2,800 a year.<sup>48</sup>

On October 18, 1861, a message from Brigham Young was received by the president of the Pacific Telegraph Company at Cleveland, Ohio, of which the following is a portion: "Utah has not seceded, but is firm for the constitution and laws of our once happy country."<sup>49</sup> The message was courteously answered. The same day Secretary and Acting Governor Frank Fuller thus saluted President Lincoln: "Utah, whose citizens strenuously resist all imputations of disloyalty, congratulates the president upon the completion of an enterprise which spans a continent... May the whole system speedily thrill with the quickened pulsations

<sup>47</sup> For list, with annual payments to each, see *U. S. Off. Reg.*, 1876, ii.; *P. O. Dept.*, 118-19.

<sup>48</sup> Names of post-offices, postmasters, and the compensation paid to each will be found in *Id.*, 351-2. For further items concerning mail services, see *Richards' Incidents of Utah Hist.*, MS., passim; for statistics, *House Ex. Doc.*, 35th Cong. 2d Sess., ii., pt. iv., pp. 757, 783, 819, 833; 37th Cong. 3d Sess., iv. 152-5, 170, 214; 38th Cong. 1st Sess., v., pt. ii., 73; 38th Cong. 2d Sess., v. 802, 822, 829-30, 861; 41st Cong. 2d Sess., i. 43, 66, 88-9, 104, 114; 41st Cong. 3d Sess., i., pt. iii., vol. iii., 46, 73, 147-9, 156, 169-71; 42d Cong. 3d Sess., i., pt. iv., vol. iv., 54, 136, 140, 223, 237-43; 45th Cong. 2d Sess., vii., pt. ii., 6-7, 20, 56, 65, 218; *Sen. Ex. Doc.*, 36th Cong. 1st Sess., i., vol. iii., pt. i., 1432-1440; 37th Cong. 2d Sess., i., vol. iii., 585-6, 601-3, 621, 644; *Mess. and Doc.*, 36th Cong. 1st Sess., pt. iii., 1432-72; 39th Cong. 1st Sess. (abridged), 48-53; 39th Cong. 2d Sess., *P. M. Genl. Rept.*, 18-19, 24, 50, 87; 40th Cong. 2d Sess. (abridged), 772-9. For routes, expenses, subsidies, etc., see *Postmaster-Gen. Rept.*, 1858, pp. 45, 69, 71, 121; 1859, 46, 54, 86; 1860, 74, 76, 140; 1865, 23, 40, 58-9, 83-4; 1868, 42, 64, 261-2, 278; 1871, 17, 40, 47, 85-6, 116, 126-8; 1873, 33, 69, 184-5, 198, 208-20; 1875, 77, 83, 210, 230, 241-51; 1876, 20, 41-5, 81, 89, 182-3, 198, 204-9; *H. Ex. Doc.*, 47th Cong. 2d Sess., xxii., no. 93, pp. 255-7; *Id.*, 48th Cong. 1st Sess., pt. 4, no. 2, pp. 252, 292, 612.

<sup>49</sup> *Deseret News*, Oct. 23, 1861.

of the heart, as the parricide hand is palsied, treason is punished, and the entire sisterhood of states join hands in glad reunion around the national fireside." The president answered: "The government reciprocates your congratulations."<sup>50</sup> In the autumn of this year the line was completed westward to California.<sup>51</sup> The charge for messages to New York was in 1861 at the rate of \$7.50 for 10 words, as against \$1.50 in 1880.<sup>52</sup>

At the former date Brigham had already resolved to connect the leading settlements of Utah by means of a home telegraph system. It was not, however, until the autumn of 1865 that the matter was brought prominently before the people. They responded cheerfully and promptly, as they ever did to his behests, contributing funds and labor, and about a year later the Deseret Telegraph Co. was in operation, the line opening for business in December 1866, connecting first with Ogden, and soon afterward with Brigham City and Logan, its northern terminus. In January 1867, 500 miles of wire had been laid, extending northward to Cache Valley and southward to St George, with a branch line running through Sanpete Valley.<sup>53</sup> During this month the company was organized under charter from the legislature, with a capital of \$500,000.<sup>54</sup> The line was afterward continued

<sup>50</sup> *Id.* See also *Tullidge's Hist. S. L. City*, 249-51; *S. F. Bulletin*, Oct. 21, 1861; *Sac. Union*, Oct. 25, Nov. 2, 1861.

<sup>51</sup> *Deseret Tel. Co. Mem.*, in *Utah Jottings*, MS. In 1859 an act was passed to incorporate the Placerville, Humboldt, and S. L. C. Tel. Co. See *Utah Acts*, 1858-9, 26.

<sup>52</sup> For day rate. The night rate was 75 cents. *Deseret Tel. Co. Mem.*, in *Utah Jottings*, MS.

<sup>53</sup> *Id.* On this the first circuit 320 pounds of wire were used per mile, the cost being 35 cents per lb and \$150 per mile. *Tullidge's Life of Brigham Young*, suppl. 67. In the *Deseret News* of Jan. 23, 1867, the line is termed the Deseret State Telegraph.

<sup>54</sup> The officers were Brigham Young president, Dan. H. Wells vice-president, Geo. Q. Cannon treasurer, and Wm Clayton secretary, the two first being ex officio members of the board; the remaining directors were Edward Hunter, Geo. A. Smith, A. O. Smoot, A. H. Raleigh, John Sharp, Jos. A. Young, Erastus Snow, Ezra T. Benson, and A. M. Musser, the last named being appointed superintendent. *Deseret Tel. Co. Mem.*, in *Utah Jottings*, MS.

Amos Milton Musser, a Pennsylvanian by birth, joined the Mormons in

## 5. Growth and Development.

1852—1856.

**Extension of the Settlements.** Five years the founders of Utah had been in the Great Basin. Wisely and well had they improved the time. Wherever a spring of water, bubbling up in some oasis of the desert, or the smallest stream flowing from the mountains, held out the least hope of agricultural success, there settlements had been formed or were in contemplation. At the opening of 1852 a chain of towns and villages, encircled by farms and fields, extended from the neighborhood of Bear River on the north, southward a distance of four hundred miles.

Civilization was also spreading east and west of Salt Lake Valley. The beginnings of Carson County (now in Nevada) had been made, and the Green River country was about to be occupied by permanent settlers. The erection of public buildings and the establishment of mercantile, industrial, and educational enterprises kept pace with the growth and extension of the settlements.

**First Regular Mail Service.** Every little town now had its post office, or a mail service of some kind. In July, 1850, a contract had been taken from the United States Government by Colonel Samuel H. Woodson, of Independence, Missouri, to carry a monthly mail between that point and Salt Lake City, where Willard Richards was the first to hold the office of Postmaster.

Since the summer of 1851, Feramorz Little, a Utah man, had been carrying the mail over a portion of the route, under a sub-contract from Colonel Woodson. Mr. Little's associates were Charles F. Decker and Ephraim K. Hanks. The eastern end of their route was Fort Laramie, where the carriers from east and west aimed to meet on the fifteenth of every month. The undertaking was difficult and dangerous. Heavy snows, high waters, hostile Indians, and a hundred other perils were in the path; but obstacles that would have dismayed most men were grappled with and overcome by these hardy rangers of the mountains. At first only the mails were carried, but passenger traffic was soon added.

**Mercantile Affairs.** Salt Lake City was, of course, the center of business activity. The first person outside the community to bring goods to this market for sale, was Captain Grant, of Fort Hall, who represented the Hudson Bay Company (1848-9). He sold sugar and coffee at one dollar a pint, calicoes at fifty and seventy-five cents a yard, and other articles in proportion. The next traders of note were Livingstone and Kinkead, a St. Louis firm, who brought a large stock of merchandise across the plains in the fall of 1849. They sold sugar and coffee at forty cents a pound, and better calicoes than Captain Grant's, at twenty-five cents a yard. A year later, Holladay and Warner, another eastern firm, opened a small store on South Temple Street. Their business was in charge of William H. Hooper, who afterwards became one of the leading financiers of Utah, and also served the Territory as Delegate in Congress. The senior part-